been prepared and that of Patna and Carnac Bunder (CST Mumbai) has been taken up. For other stations Railway were advised to take up preliminary activities.

Katara-Banihal rail link segment

3170. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time schedule for completing the rail alignment between Katara and Banihal, including constructing the mega-arch bridge over the river Chenab;

(b) whether there has been escalation in cost for this rail link segment over the original estimated cost; and

(c) if so, whether it is attributable only to inflation and rise in cost of material, or there are other significant factors like changes in the original planning from time-to-time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Railway alignment between Katra-Banihal, including the alignment over river Chenab has been reviewed by the Expert Committee. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of the Ministry. Time schedule and cost of the project can be ascertained after final decision is taken by the Ministry on the report of the Committee.

Train operation

†3171. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the situation of train operation is worse at present;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has prescribed any policy to improve the situation of train operation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Improvement of train operation is an ongoing process depending upon modernization of technology, development of infrastructure facilities, improvement in factors beyond railways control such as weather, law and order, agitations etc.

Running of non-stop trains on existing tracks

3172. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing rail tracks are capable of running non-stop trains, as proposed in the rail budget;

(b) if not, whether there are any decision for changing or upgradation of the existing rail tracks;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, when the decision was taken and what is the time schedule for each of the projects; and

(d) the details of the fund allotted for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Questions do not arise.

Feasibility of double-decker trains

3173. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the feasibility of running double-decker trains; and

(b) whether Government has consulted the experts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Non-airconditioned double decker coaches are already running on Indian Railways.

In the Railway Budget 2009-10, introduction of high capacity airconditioned double decker coaches having superior riding quality and comfort for intercity travel has been announced. The design of such coaches has been taken up by the Indian Railways and expert opinion/assistance shall be obtained, if considered necessary at any stage.

Development of Surat-Hazira railway line

3174. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the planning of Ministry of Railways/RVNL to develop Surat-Hazira railway line;

(b) what is the status regarding financial contribution among different stakeholders/ companies for this project;

(c) whether Government contemplates to allocate more funds to RVNL; and

(d) as it is technically feasible to integrate this section as a part of dedicated freight corridor between Mumbai-Delhi, what is the planning of Ministry of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Surat-Hazira new line is a port connectivity project which was handed over to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL), a PSU under Ministry of Railways, for further development. On being approached by RVNL, Government of Gujarat *vide* resolution No. GID-102007-1213-G dated 10.06.2009 has finalised the alignment of Surat-Hazira rail line project. To review the progress of the implementation of this project and to facilitate fast implementation, Government of Gujarat has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat. RVNL is working out the cost of the finalised alignment and its bankability and will process the case for sanctioning of the project.

(b) Financial contribution among different stakeholders/companies will be decided on completion of the project development and establishment of its bankability. Presently